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UNDP: COUNTRY COOPERATION FRAMEWORKS AND RELATED MATTERS

EXTENSION OF THE THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

1. The third country programme for the Cayman Islands (1993-1996) was approved by the Governing Council at its special session in February 1993. The Government has requested an extension of the country programme for one year, from 1 January 1997 to 31 December 1997.

2. The objective of the third country programme is to ensure more active government involvement in national economic planning and management, in order to steer private sector-led development more effectively, and thereby secure a sustained pattern of growth. The main areas of focus are education and economic management, the reorganization of the public services and more effective implementation of sectoral plans.

3. The extension of the programme will enable the newly elected Government to:

(a) Re-evaluate the nature of its cooperation framework with UNDP, in view of the fact that immediately prior to and after the general election of October 1996, the Government and key project personnel were uncertain how to proceed with project implementation;

(b) Consolidate and complete ongoing programmes and projects;

(c) Synchronize the upcoming country cooperation framework with its new National Development Plan, particularly in light of the country's current status as a transitional net contributor country, which, for the first time, will be receiving core resources that will be reimbursable;

(d) Conduct the preparatory work necessary in order to elaborate the thematic areas proposed for its first country cooperation framework.

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4. It is expected that the first country cooperation framework will be submitted to the Executive Board at its first regular session in January 1998.

5. Against this background, the Administrator wishes to inform the Executive Board that he has approved the extension of the third country programme for the Cayman Islands for a period of one year, beginning 1 January 1997.